needed. We are all concerned about increasing the investment in agriculture because, in the last one or two years, it has gone down. Whatever may be the political party and whatever may be their thinking, leftist or rightist, everybody is concerned because agriculture is still, and is likely to continue to be the backbone of our economy. So, we have to increase the investment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERSTO STARRED QUESTIONS

Study of Law in Secondary Education

*84. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to include Law as a subject in the Secondary Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) has prepared a Curriculum Framework at the national level. Decision regarding inclusion of a subject for study for school is taken by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the States' School Boards in the light of NCERTs Curriculum Framework. There is no reference in the NCERTs National Curriculum Framework to the inclusion of law as a subject at the secondary level. CBSE also does not have any proposal to introduce law as a subject at the secondary level.

Pollution in India

* 85. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Telegraph, dated 28th May, 2001 under the caption ""India on pollution black list";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems raised in the

report so that the pollution level in India can be brought down to a sustainable level?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No conclusive inference could be drawn as the report is not based on scientific studies.

(c) The Government has taken various steps to control pollution in the country which include the following:—

(1) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.

(2) Effluent and emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(3) Highly polluting industries have been identified. Defaulting Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment in a time bound basis nad legal action is taken against the defaulting" units.

(4) For control of water pollution from clusters of small scale industries, 89 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) have been provided subsidies.

(5) Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of 30 specified categories of developmental projects.

(6) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.

(7) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

(8) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in major cities.

(9) A notification to control noise pollution emanating from various sources with the help of local authorities has been notified in February, 2000.

(10) Noise standards for stationary diesel sets (15-500 KVA) have been notified during January, 1999.

(11) Noise standards for fire crackers had been notified in October, 1999.

(12) Noise limits for portable generator sets run with petrol and kerosene have been notified in September, 2000.

(13) Noise limits for vehicles have been revised which will be effective from 1st January 2003. However, they have been notified in September, 2000.

(14) Noise level standards for coal mines have been evolved and notified during September, 2000.

(15) Action Plans for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai are being implemented and similar action plans have been prepared for Chennai and Hyderabad.

(16) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plans have been drawn up for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.

(17) Environmental epidemiological studies have been initiated in different parts of the country to find out the impact of pollution.

(18) Promotion of environmental education and awareness.

Irregularities in recruitment of teachers in KVS

*86. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4664, given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th April, 2001, and state:

(a) what has been the opinion of CVC in the matter regarding irregularities allegedly committed in the award of work regarding recruitment of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan *vis-a-vis* report of the Enquiry Officer and its own assessment; and

(b) the details of follow-up action taken/contemplated by Governmnent?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) It was decided to entrust the work of conducting the examinations for the recruitment of teachers in Kendriya